



The 1125th meeting of the New England Botanical Club, Inc. will be held Friday, **2 March 2018, at 6:45 p.m.** in Haller Lecture Hall (room 102), Geological Museum, 24 Oxford St., Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.



“The Evolution of Conifer Cones Across Time and Space”

By

**Dr. Andrew Leslie, Assistant Professor
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Brown University, Providence, RI**

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **ANDREW LESLIE’S ABSTRACT:** Conifer cones may seem like commonplace objects, but they show an incredible diversity of forms that reflect a complex biology, rich ecology, and a long evolutionary history. In this talk, I explore how the diverse suite of functions that conifer cones perform for the plant – including capturing pollen, protecting developing seeds, and dispersing mature seeds – influences the evolution of cone diversity, and how changes in these functions over time led to the appearance of modern conifer cones. In particular, I will discuss how seed protection and seed dispersal by vertebrates, particularly mammals, such as squirrels, and birds, like nutcrackers, has played an important role in what conifer cones look like and how they are distributed around the world.
- 2) **2018-2019 NEBC SLATE:** The [Slate for 2018-2019 Council](#) proposed by the Nominating Committee will be sent in a separate email and is posted now on the NEBC website. The vote will be taken at the Annual Meeting on 2 March 2018. Committee Chairs will also give their annual reports then.
- 3) **COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT:** The NEBC Council holds its’ Annual Meeting in April after the new Council election. At that time, the members on all committees are reviewed and revised. If you have an interest in or want to learn more about these committees, please reply. [NEBC Committees](#)
- 4) **NEBC GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD(S) APPLICATIONS DUE 1 MARCH 2018:** Each year NEBC offers up to \$3000 in support of botanical research conducted by graduate students. Thursday, 1 March 2018 is the deadline for receipt of proposals and supporting letters. Additional details may be found on the [Graduate Student Research Award webpage](#).
- 5) **NEXT NEBC MEETING IS OUR ANNUAL DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER:** On 6 April 2018, Dr. James Lendemer, Assistant Curator, Lichenology, Institute of Systematic Botany, New York Botanical Garden, and Assistant Professor, Department of Biology Graduate Center, City University of New York, will speak on •“*New England Lichens: Leveraging Past Riches to Understanding the Present and Future*”
- 6) **SAVE THE DATES FOR JUNE “AWAY” MEETING, JUNE 1-2:** NEBC is planning an *Away Meeting* for Friday, June 1st and Saturday, June 2nd in western Massachusetts. Field trips are being planned for both Friday and Saturday to botanical hotspots around the area. On Friday afternoon-evening, there will be a reception and open house at the Smith College Botanic Garden in Northampton, MA, from 4-6 PM, followed by a lecture.

- 7) **VIDEOS of PAST PRESENTATIONS:** Please see [Past Meetings](#) for videos of past lectures, including Bob Wernerehl's February presentation. No password required for access to videos.
- 8) **NONVASCULAR HERBARIUM WORK DATES:** If you would like to help Elizabeth Kneiper and the Nonvascular Herbarium Committee with many tasks related to the NEBC collection, please contact her at Ekneiper@aol.com. Meet in the basement of the Farlow Herbarium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Upcoming work dates are on Wednesday's and Saturday's. Please see the [What's New](#) page for details.
- 9) **EAGLE HILL INSTITUTE DISCOUNTS & NEBC STIPENDS:** Eagle Hill Institute, Steuben, ME, is again offering NEBC members a 20% discount for the 2018 Workshops and Seminars. Also, NEBC will give a **stipend of \$150** towards costs for the first 10 NEBC members who register for a summer botany course. Contact John Burns at nebc@rhodora.org for details. [Eagle Hill 2018 calendar](#).
- 10) **REQUESTING NEBC PRESENCE AND ASSISTANCE AT NORTHEAST NATURAL HISTORY CONFERENCE:** At the 2018 conference organized by Eagle Hill Institute at Hotel Burlington Conference Center, Burlington, VT, on April 13-15, NEBC members have organized a presentation session and will staff a table in the exhibit area. **NEBC members who will be attending the conference and would like to help staff our table for half a day, may reply to NEBC Association Manager: John Burns nebc@rhodora.org and request that 50% of their registration be covered by NEBC (first come, first serve upon approval).** In addition to submitting presentation abstracts, NEBC members may also propose workshops, field trips, and other events until 26 February 2018. For full details about the conference and registration: [2018 Northeast Natural History Conference](#)
Discounted registration ends 12 March 2018.
- 11) **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE PAST DUE:** [Renew Your NEBC Membership for 2018 Here!](#)
- 12) **PARKING LOCATION:** From 5 PM-10 PM, our designated FREE parking lot is **the 52 Oxford St. Garage, near the intersection of Everett St. and Oxford St.** Parking in any other lot will likely lead to towing. Please find a map showing the Oxford Garage (52OX) at the following link: [Interactive Harvard University Map](#).
- 13) **EARLIER ARRIVALS:** For those arriving before 5 PM, visitor permits (\$17.00/day) are available from Harvard Parking Service at Harvard Campus Service Center, 8th floor, Holyoke Building, 1350 Massachusetts Ave. (8AM-5PM) and on-line at [Visitor Parking Permit](#). Select OEB/MCZ/HUH for building and 2017 for the department code. License plate number needed for transaction. Print pass and display on dash. For more information, Parking Services may be contacted at 617-495-3772 or parking@harvard.edu. [AN ALTERNATIVE: Some members park at Alewife T station and ride the red line train to the Harvard Square T stop.]

The Council will meet 4–5 PM in the meeting room near Haller Lecture Hall.

The New England Botanical Club [NEBC 2017-2018 Program Calendar](#)
Harvard University Herbaria, 22 Divinity Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138-2020
NEBC Association Manager: John Burns nebc@rhodora.org
Club Phone: (413) 548-5668

NEBC Corresponding Secretary
Dr. Nancy M. Eyster-Smith
neystersmith@bentley.edu
NEBC WEB SITE: <http://www.rhodora.org/>